

February 8, 1960

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT
February 2, 1960

Others present: Secretary Herter, General Goodpaster

Secretary Herter first spoke of Algeria. He said that General de Gaulle is not yet out of the woods, and much will depend on the action of the FLN. If FLN leaders delay some move toward accommodation, the resentment now smouldering among the French colonials may break out. The Army is the key question. He said he had given thought to the possibility of the President sending a note to de Gaulle while the crisis was on, but had decided against recommending this since the question was essentially an internal problem. Now he thought a message could be sent with good effect. He showed the President a draft, which the President approved, with a comment that he thought de Gaulle would appreciate such a note. It is to be kept strictly secret.

Mr. Herter next spoke of the Cuban situation. The composite reaction to the recent statement by the President has been very good. Favorable reactions have occurred everywhere, even in Mexico and Venezuela which were question marks. He said the President of Cuba has replied in a rather non-inflammatory way. Some Latin-American diplomats have suggested that Bonsal should return, but the State Department feels there are several essential steps that would have to precede that. He showed the President a memorandum of instructions to our Charge in Havana, calling on the Cubans to give assurances regarding proper treatment of our Ambassador, before Bonsal returns. The President thought this was all right as a statement to be made orally by our Charge. He said he would have shortened it to its essentials -- that the Cubans will repudiate any charges of complicity and insults against the United States, and will stand ready to talk on all problems. Mr. Herter said that the Cuban

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I confirmed with Mr. Herter that it would be quite all right for the President to arrive late on the 14th, and limit his meetings to the 15th.

Mr. Herter mentioned a minor question that has arisen regarding "passes" issued to our military personnel who travel in East Germany. A new entry has been made on a recent re-issue of passes, indicating that they are "registered" with the GDR. This becomes part of our problem regarding West Berlin. He said he would follow this matter carefully.

Mr. Herter said he has been asked to provide a memorandum to Senator Fulbright regarding the discussion of "intentions vs. capabilities" in intelligence estimates. The President asked me to look at this when Mr. Herter had it ready. I did so, and suggested two changes which Mr. Herter incorporated.

Secretary Herter reported a new development regarding the idea of holding tri-partite discussions in London. Couve de Murville is dubious about this. He said that the minutes of the meetings in Paris differ as to whose suggestion this was. The President said he had suggested the place but had not made the proposal. The objective was proposed by the French. His suggestion was that meetings in London would be a possible means of accomplishing the objective if there is a desire for it. We are certainly not the ones that are pressing the matter. Mr. Herter could so advise Couve de Murville.


A. J. Goodpaster
Brigadier General, USA

